AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. - 19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable absorbent article comprising:

a generally liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin;

an outer cover;

an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste;

a surge layer between the liner and absorbent body for taking in liquid body waste penetrating the liner and subsequently releasing liquid body waste for flow toward the absorbent body; and

a flow control layer between the liner and absorbent body for at least retarding the flow of liquid body waste penetrating the liner toward the absorbent body.

21. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer is disposed between the surge layer and the absorbent body to at least retard the flow of liquid body waste released from the surge layer toward the absorbent body.

22. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer is disposed between the liner and the surge layer to at least retard the flow of liquid body waste penetrating the liner toward the surge layer.

23. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer comprises a permeable material.

24. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 23 wherein the permeable material comprises a liquid impermeable film having apertures therein.

25. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 24 wherein the apertures in the film are each sized in the range of about 1 mm to about 10 mm.

26. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 25 wherein the apertures in the film each have a size of about 5 mm.

27. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 25 wherein the film has an aperture density of less than or equal to about 14 apertures per square inch.

28. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 24 wherein the film has a thickness of less than or equal to about .003 inches.

29. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 23 wherein the permeable material comprises a meltblown, hydrophobic, non-woven material.

30. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 29 wherein the permeable material has a thickness of less than or equal to about 1 mm.

31. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer comprises an

impermeable material whereby liquid body waste contacting the flow control layer migrates out toward peripheral edges thereof and then around the edges thereof toward the absorbent body.

32. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 31 wherein the impermeable material comprises a film.

33. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 32 wherein the film has a thickness of less than or equal to about 3 mil.

34. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer has a width substantially the same as the width of the surge layer.

35. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer has a length substantially the same as the length of the surge layer.

36. (Original) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer has a permeability which is lower than a permeability of the surge layer.

37. (Canceled).

38. (Original) Toilet training pants comprising:

an anterior region, a posterior region and a crotch region disposed longitudinally therebetween, said anterior region, posterior region and crotch area being integrally formed and configured to define a central waist opening and a pair of leg openings of the pants, the crotch region extending generally laterally between said leg openings;

a generally liquid permeable liner extending from the anterior region through the crotch region to the posterior

region of the pants and being adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin;

an outer cover;

an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste;

a surge layer between the liner and absorbent body for taking in liquid body waste penetrating the liner and subsequently releasing the liquid body waste for flow toward the absorbent body; and

a flow control layer between the liner and the absorbent body for at least retarding the flow of liquid body waste penetrating the liner toward the absorbent body.

39. (Original) Training pants as set forth in claim 38 wherein the flow control layer is disposed between the liner and the surge layer to at least retard the flow of liquid body waste penetrating the liner toward the surge layer.

40. (Original) Training pants as set forth in claim 38 wherein the flow control layer is disposed between the surge layer and the absorbent body to at least retard the flow of liquid body waste released from the surge layer toward the absorbent body.

41. (Original) Training pants as set forth in claim 38 wherein the flow control layer has a permeability which is lower than the permeability of the surge layer.

42. - 44. (Canceled).

45. (Original) A method of facilitating flow back through the liner of a disposable absorbent article to provide a prolonged feeling of wetness to the wearer of the article after

the wearer releases a surge of liquid body waste therein, the disposable article being of the type having a liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin, an outer cover and an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the liner, the method comprising:

directing liquid body waste penetrating the liner to flow toward a surge layer disposed between the liner and the absorbent body, the surge layer being constructed for taking in liquid body waste and subsequently releasing liquid body waste therefrom;

directing liquid body waste released from the surge layer to flow toward the absorbent body for absorption thereby; and

at least retarding the flow of liquid body waste released from the surge layer to the absorbent body to maintain unabsorbed liquid body waste within the surge layer for a prolonged duration, thereby facilitating the flow back of liquid body waste through the liner to provide a prolonged feeling of wetness to the wearer.

46. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 45 wherein the step of at least retarding the flow of liquid body waste released from the surge layer to the absorbent body comprises directing liquid body waste in the surge layer to flow past a flow control layer as liquid body waste is released from the surge layer to at least retard the flow of liquid body waste from the surge layer toward the absorbent body.

47. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 46 wherein the flow control layer directs liquid body waste to migrate out over the flow control layer toward peripheral edges thereof

before flowing past the flow control layer for subsequent flow toward the absorbent body, unabsorbed liquid body waste being substantially maintained in the surge layer as the liquid body waste migrates out over the flow control layer.

48. (Original) A method of facilitating a prolonged feeling of wetness to the wearer of a disposable absorbent article after the wearer releases a surge of liquid body waste therein, the disposable article being of the type having a liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin, an outer cover and an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the liner, the method comprising:

directing liquid body waste penetrating the liner to flow toward a surge layer disposed between the liner and the absorbent body, the surge layer being constructed for taking in liquid body waste and subsequently releasing liquid body waste therefrom;

directing liquid body waste released from the surge layer to flow toward the absorbent body for absorption thereby; and

at least retarding the flow of liquid body waste penetrating the liner toward the surge layer to maintain unabsorbed liquid body waste in the vicinity of the liner for a prolonged duration, thereby facilitating a prolonged feeling of wetness to the wearer.

49. (New) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer comprises a liquid impermeable material whereby liquid body waste contacting the flow control layer migrates out toward peripheral edges thereof and then around the edges thereof toward the absorbent body,

said liquid impermeable material being adapted to permit at least some liquid body waste that passes through the liner to flow past the flow control layer toward the absorbent body without migrating outward around the peripheral edges of the flow control layer.

50. (New) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 22 wherein the flow control layer is secured to the liner.

51. (New) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 20 wherein the flow control layer is constructed at least part from a non-woven material.

52. (New) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 49 wherein the liquid impermeable material has apertures formed therein to permit at least some liquid body waste that passes through the liner to flow past the flow control layer toward the absorbent body without migrating outward around the peripheral edges of the flow control layer.

53. (New) Toilet training pants as set forth in claim 39 wherein the flow control layer is secured to the liner.

54. (New) Toilet training pants as set forth in claim 38 wherein the flow control layer is constructed at least part from a non-woven material.